

**“When a slave was drunk, the slaveholder had no fear that he would plan an insurrection; no fear that he would escape to the North. It was the sober, thinking slave who was dangerous, and needed the vigilance of his master to keep him a slave.” -Frederick Douglass**

**[STRAIGHT-EDGE** THE DANGER  
**OF A SOBER INSURRECTION ANARCHY]**





For total liberation, by *every* means necessary.



**BECAUSE THERE ARE BETTER USES FOR A  
LIGHTER**

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This pamphlet was written by  
some insurrectionary queers of the sober kind*

Cartel (Mexico) or the Noorzai Organization (Afghanistan). From an economic standpoint radical sobriety reduces the demand for their “goods” and limits their power at an individual level. As a whole, the Straight Edge movement maintains not only a threat to these businesses by disrupting their flow of income, but also to the normalcy of emotional suppression, obedience, and apathy. In this sense sobriety is embraced not only as a rejection of submission, but also as a declaration of war.

## ***Solidarity***

Attacking intoxication culture means individual resistance and collective support. Civilization is a prison of misery, coercion, and oppressive inequality. Institutionalized racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression create feelings of severe depression and isolation. Intoxication culture thrives in areas dominated by poverty, depression, and isolation. This explains why communities of color are often affected by addiction and intoxication where the state takes advantage carrying out murders and mass incarceration. Support and solidarity are important in helping to strengthen the struggle against addiction as well as developing an intersectional attack on all oppression.

Radical sobriety support groups and spaces help replace religious groups that rather than addressing addiction as a natural response to an oppressive environment, seek to replace one form of co-dependency with an authoritarian one. Providing revolutionary sober-safe spaces that are open for recovering addicts, community discussions, and radical support help aid the struggle against intoxication culture. Being inclusive rather than rejecting those struggling with addiction is of utmost importance as well as encouraging self-empowerment in those who feel powerless against their addiction.

Straight-Edge identifying anarchists stand against religion, homophobia, sexism, racism and all forms of oppressions and should not be confused with “hardline” ideology. Radical sobriety is not only a self-liberating act of re-wilding one's self, but also as a form of solidarity and support with those struggling against addiction. Embracing an intersectional struggle against all oppression and authority means solidarity with all who struggle for freedom-including freedom from addiction and the pacifying force of intoxication culture.

Towards the destruction of civilization, all prisons, and the domesticating globalization of capitalism. For human/nonhuman animal and earth liberation.

## ***Intoxication Culture***

*Intoxication: derived from the Latin word “intoxicatio,” meaning “to poison one’s self.”* Intoxication culture is a set of institutions, behaviors, and mindsets focused on the consumption of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use. Intoxication culture facilitates the anesthesia promoted by those in power who seek to dis-empower and pacify the enslaved. As an antithesis of self-liberation, intoxication culture promotes defeatism through the internalization of self-hatred and pity.

On a global scale capitalism not only manifests its destruction environmentally but also in the form of self-destructive actions and behaviors which have become normalized as a traditional development of civilization. As a coping mechanism, intoxication becomes an accepted part of daily life, whether it be as a reward for a long hard week of wage-slavery, or a self-prescribed sedative and so on. Intoxication culture is self-perpetuating and captures the idea of rebellion through self-destruction. Often an individual manifests depression and anger cultivated by pre-existing oppressive external forces, through a variety of self-destructive actions. Rebellion in this sense is internalized as self-hatred, apathy, and self-pity. As self-hatred, depression, and feelings of inferiority become exacerbated by addiction, profits soar for capitalists. Rather than directly confronting problems that exist in one's life, an individual becomes dependent on a source which provides temporary escape. Escapism becomes an alternative life of apathy through toxic consumerism. As nourishment for self-pity, hopelessness, and apathy intoxication acts as an agent of consolement.

The deprivation of self-respect coupled with feelings of inferiority has and continues to be an obstacle in the way of insurrectionary attack. This short pamphlet was written in hopes of presenting a critical view of toxic pacifism while highlighting the urgency for sober attack.

## ***Chemical Warfare and Colonization***

Alcohol was an integral part of the colonization process. Everything from creating alcoholic abusive behavior within what used to be peaceful Native groups and tribes to pacifying slave revolts. European Christian colonists used alcohol as a chemical weapon of warfare in their genocidal and ethnic cleansing, mistreatment, and exploitation of indigenous peoples. Alcohol and tobacco became tools of privilege creating hierarchy as those who had more access to these could sell them for the labor of others. Once tobacco became known for its

profit, indigenous people, slaves, and indentured servants were put to work on lands that were taken by brutal force from the Natives. Alcohol and drugs were used for their pacifying and numbing effects. As the wild and free became more intoxicated and distracted from the reality of their rapidly changing existence, they began to internalize the hatred imposed upon them. With the development of an identity crisis the process of assimilation took place as many indigenous and other people of color became a target for capitalists who profit from social intoxication.

### ***Distract and Pacify***

Capitalism relies heavily on distracting people from the reality of its oppressive control. As long as people are ignorant and docile, capitalism and its destruction can remain unchallenged and operational. Through toxic submission capitalism normalizes the monotony of social dis-empowerment. As long as the casual exchange of labor for capital, capital for inebriation takes place, there is no threat to the civilized order. While a local punk benefit show rages in clouds of cigarette smoke, Reynolds American (a \$19.5 billion corporation) takes much of the profit. Empty beer cans and hung-over anarchist punks litter the floors of squats and rented spaces as the U.S casually continues its military domination of other countries abroad.

In a system of psychological warfare, pacifism is defeat. It is the neglect of one's self as a result of the civilized disconnection from wild raw emotion. Emotional suppression induced by inebriation cultivates the pacifist role of allowing external forces of oppression to exist and dominate without confrontation and attack. Intoxication distracts an individual by complicating pre-existing stressful circumstances to the point of emotional exhaustion. During this time of anesthesia spaces of emotional and physical vulnerability are opened and exploited. These complications and distractions allow capitalism and those in power to oppress without conflict.

By impairing and debilitating the emotional and physical arsenal foundational to self-liberation, intoxication culture is an obstacle in the way of revolutionary organizing and attack. The revolutionary act of overcoming these obstacles and addictions in pursuit of self-liberation is nothing less than an outspoken refusal to be tamed and pacified, It is a refusal to promote and participate in a culture which aids the destruction of others.

### ***Why Straight-Edge?***

Straight-Edge is the politics of regaining control over one's self, and of taking back from those who wish to enslave and control. It is the politics of rejecting the “values” and toxic traditions that have been instilled in civilized society. In a system dependent on the intoxication and ignorance of people, the abstention from these tranquilizers is a refusal to comply with, and rebellion against the system. As people have been drowned and chained by capitalist traditions, Straight Edge is embraced by anarchists as a firm rejection of a culture promoted and perpetuated by a system seeking total physical and psychological control. As a rejection to the assumption that all will participate in the intoxicating consumerist routine of passive obedience, self-disrespect, and toxic submission, the Straight-Edge movement has increased. This has occurred as anarchists extend solidarity with freedom fighters globally, understanding that cognizance and sobriety are a combined expression of resistance to the self-indulgent, apathetic ethos that defines mainstream U.S. culture.

### ***“War on drugs” = War on people of color***

As a result of the state-operated “War on Drugs”, communities of color are targeted for police harassment and mass incarceration. Crack and other drugs remain as large sources of profit for the white supremacist system. By keeping POC communities passive and politically indifferent, the state is able to warp public perception with the delusion of progress with incarcerations. Straight-Edge anarchists understand that the state is never an option for fighting intoxication culture. The state is not only the colonial, repressive apparatus protecting private-property ownership and the white supremacist order but also an accomplice of intoxication culture. One does not have to look far to see how the state uses intoxication culture to fuel the prison industrial complex. The state has used drugs to orchestrate the destruction of the Black Panther Party and has made multiple attempts to undermine the cohesion of the Zapatistas with alcohol. Due to their destructive counter-insurgent effects, there is a total absence of consumption or sale of drugs and alcohol in the Zapatista autonomous communities.

Alcohol manufacturers, coca and marijuana syndicates, and “chemists” have created a colossal destructive industry based on both “legal” and black market demand. Philip Morris and Anheuser-Busch, although both household names, are just as responsible for community destruction and murder as the Sinaloa